

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Thursday, June 1, 1933

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "Caring for Clothes with Soap and Water." Information from the Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

--ooooOoooo--

More news today about making clothes wear longer and keep their good looks. More news about caring for clothes with soap and water. The way you clean garments has much to do with whether they remain new and smart looking or whether they soon appear old and dragged out. Whenever you see a woman who dresses well yet spends very little money, you can guess that she knows the tricks of inexpensive cleaning, the secrets of washing things successfully--gloves or gowns, sweaters or stockings.

Two of these secrets of success are the right soap and the right temperature. Mild neutral soap in thick suds--that's the safe form to use with silks, wools or any delicate fabrics. Lukewarm is the right temperature for both the washing and the rinsing. Hot water is likely to make colors run and damages silks or wools. Test the temperature with your elbow or with a thermometer rather than with your hands, which are not so sensitive to heat. With every intention of using tepid water many people actually wash with too hot water. What seems lukewarm to the hands is really too hot for most fabrics.

Another important point is having soft water. Hard water uses up extra soap, doesn't make the nice soft suds that remove soil quickly, and often leaves a scum on the clothes that is hard to get out. Soft rinsing water is even more important than soft washing water.

Finally, thorough washing and rinsing are important. Don't leave any soil on the clothes after washing. Do a thorough job. And don't leave any soap in the clothes after rinsing. Use as many rinse waters as necessary. Keep on rinsing until the water is clear.

One more point. When you're dealing with colored clothes cool water and rapid work are most important. Quick washing, quick rinsing, quick drying. Don't give the color time to run badly. No standing and soaking. No long hanging and dripping.

Many housekeepers complain that they have unhappy results when they wash gloves at home. Let's stop and talk about washing gloves. With summer here many of us will be wearing light or white gloves a good deal for several months. Learning to wash them successfully will save us money and help keep us well dressed. First, be sure gloves are washable before you try to wash them. That information is usually stamped on the gloves. Most gloves wash best right on the hands. Slip them on dry. Then go ahead as if you were just washing your hands. Rub them together in the suds. Use a nail brush on the tips of the fingers. Reach every spot on the gloves so you won't miss any soiled places. Then rinse in three waters. Roll the wet gloves off the hands from the wrist. Don't pull them. If your gloves are of soft chamois or doeskin, better not wash

them this way. These leathers become so soft when they're wet that they may pull out at the seams if you wash them on the hands. Squeeze these gloves in the suds. Work the suds through the leather. Here's one exception to the rule of rinsing well. Chamois or doeskin gloves are softer and more pliable when they're dry if a little soap is left in them. Roll them in a bath towel and knead a few times to remove the extra moisture. Unroll them immediately and put them on glove forms, if you happen to have any. Otherwise, blow into them to stretch them into proper shape. Watch out for black or colored stitching on the back of white gloves. That may run. Insert white tissue paper in the gloves to guard against streaks. Never dry leather gloves near radiators or any intense heat. A good breeze from the window or from an electric fan hastens the drying.

Girdles, corsets and corselettes and other foundation garments often are a laundering problem. If laundered the wrong way they lose their shape or the rubber may be damaged. But they'll come out quite successfully if you use the proper methods. Loosen the garter clips. Souse the garment up and down in thick lukewarm suds. Never rub, pull or twist. Any spots on a thick girdle, you can remove by rubbing with a soapy brush. Lay the girdle flat and brush the dirt out. Rinse in at least three lukewarm waters. Most elastic or other rubber fabrics can't stand hot water. When the garment is thoroughly rinsed, roll it in a Turkish towel first. Then hang it straight to dry in a good current of air. Again, avoid hanging too near a stove or radiator. When thoroughly dry, press the cloth portions with a warm but not a hot iron. Of course, you never put an iron on the elastic part.

Rayon and silk underwear? Or silk stockings? How do you wash these? Once again, use a rich, fluffy, lukewarm suds of mild neutral soap. Rinse thoroughly in lukewarm water. Treat these garments gently. Squeeze and souse them in the suds. But never rub, wring or twist. Roll them first in a Turkish towel. Then hang them straight to dry. Dry quickly. Avoid intense heat either in the washing or in the drying or ironing. Never hang these garments in the direct sun or in a hot place near the stove to dry. Never iron any knitted silks or rayons.

Tomorrow: "Summer Breakfasts".

